

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CU-04
ACDA-12 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 TRSE-00 /124 W
-----118377 241426Z /46

R 241334Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3910
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, MPOL, PFOR, XF, UR
SUBJECT: LENINGRAD LECTURER ON SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST

1. SUMMARY: LENINGRAD LECTURER DISCUSSED "SITUATION IN
MIDDLE EAST" ON JANUARY 22 FOR THREE HOURS TO PACKED MAIN
AUDITORIUM. MAIN THRUST OF HIS LECTURE WAS THAT PRESENT
"SEPARATIST" PEACE MOVES BY SADAT WERE ONLY LATEST STAGE
IN LONGER TERM STRUGGLE IN M.E. BETWEEN PROGRESSIVE,
NATIONAL LIBERATION FORCES AND BOURGEOIS ELEMENTS ALLIED
WITH ZIONISM, IMPERIALISM AND U.S. CARTER ADMINISTRATION
"WAFLING" IS ATTRIBUTED TO STRONG ZIONIST LOBBY IN U.S.
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WHILE SPEAKER PREDICTED SEPARATIST PEACE EFFORTS WILL
FAIL, HE INDICATED SOME CONCERN THAT OVERALL SOVIET
POSITION IN M.E. HAS BECOME "MORE COMPLICATED," THAT
INDIVIDUAL SEPARATE AGREEMENTS MAY BE CONCLUDED WITH
ISRAEL, AND EVEN THAT SYRIA MIGHT BECOME INVOLVED IN
SEPARATIST NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

2. US AND ISRAEL WERE SAID TO HAVE CONCLUDED FROM 1973 WAR, THAT ANOTHER CONFLICT IN M.E. WOULD BE AGAINST U.S. AND ISRAELI INTERESTS. U.S. THEN INITIATED MORE ACTIVE POLICY DESIGNED TO WEAKEN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT, STRENGTHEN REACTIONARY STATES, ENCOURAGE FORMATION OF NEW BOURGEOISIE IN ARAB COUNTRIES AND DESTROY ARAB-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP. U.S. AND ISRAEL HAVE MET WITH SOME SUCCESS IN THEIR POLICY, AND CONDITIONS HAVE BECOME "MORE COMPLICATED FOR USSR WHICH IS NOT IN POSITION TO "DICTATE." SPECIFICALLY:

-- ISRAEL (AND BY IMPLICATION U.S.) USED THE LEBANON CIVIL WAR TO TRY AND CRUSH PALESTINIANS AS MAIN OBSTACLE TO SEPARATIST PEACE EFFORTS. FORTY THOUSAND PALESTINIANS WERE KILLED IN "MOST TRAGIC" EVENTS BUT PLO HAS WITHSTOOD AND FIGHTS ON.

-- ISRAEL HAS RECEIVED INCREASED AID FROM U.S. (\$10 BILLION), AND NOW HAS MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX CAPABLE OF PRODUCING VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING. IS SUPPLIED TO FIGHT FOR ONE MONTH. (IN ANSWER TO QUESTION), ISRAEL PROBABLY HAS SMALL CALIBER ATOMIC WEAPONS.

-- WHILE JEWS IN U.S. ONLY 3 PERCENT (SPEAKER LATER DUCKED QUESTION ON NUMBER IN USSR), THEY EXERT VERY STRONG MORAL PRESSURE ON ADMINISTRATION, WHICH ALSO FAVORS ISRAELI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BECAUSE IT IS ANTI-SOVIET, ANTI-NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND PROTECTOR OF U.S. INTERESTS IN M.E.

-- MAJOR EFFORT WAS MADE BY ZIONISTS AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TO INFLUENCE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND AVERT U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. AT OUTSET, PRESIDENT CARTER UNDERSTOOD DANGER OF BEGIN'S POLICIES (DESCRIBED AS FAVORING RETENTION OF SOME 90 STRATEGIC SETTLEMENTS ON ARAB LANDS, OPPOSING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS, OPPOSING PALESTINIAN STATE, AND AGGRAVATING TENSION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON). HE ALSO NEEDED SOME POLICY SUCCESS WITH USSR LAST SUMMER. HENCE AGREED TO JOINT US-USSR STATEMENT. BUT THIS PRODUCED RENEWED ZIONIST LOBBYING CAMPAIGN WHICH LED TO ADMINISTRATION "WAFFLING" AND VIRTUALLY RENOUNCING US-SOVIET STATEMENT.

-- SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY SENT DELEGATION LAST FALL TO SYRIA, JORDAN, LEBANON WHERE IT WAS AGREED THAT MAIN NEED WAS TO ORGANIZE UNITED ARAB DELEGATION TO INCLUDE PALESTINIANS. U.S. WAS OPPOSED TO THIS APPROACH.

-- SADAT WAS NOT PLEASED WITH US-USSR STATEMENT AND

WARNED US ABOUT RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN M.E. HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED FOR REPERCUSSIONS ON HIS POSITION IF ISRAELIS FAILED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. HIS INTERNAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND LOSS OF AUTHORITY (PARTLY FROM ATTACK ON LIBYA) FORCED HIM TO SEEK WAYS TO INCREASE PRESTIGE. HENCE THE SEPARATIST APPROACH. DURING PREPARED REMARKS AND ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, SPEAKER PICTURED SADAT AS AMBITIOUS DEMAGOGUE WHO HAS PUT EGYPT BACK ON BOURGEOIS PATH. HE ACCUSED HIM OF BETRAYING NASSER AND SAID HE REPORTEDLY USES DRUGS.

-- U.S. IS PICTURED AS ENCOURAGING SADAT IN SEPARATE PEACE INITIATIVE AND TRYING WITHOUT SUCCESS TO GET SOVIETS TO JOIN CAIRO TALKS (EMBOFF UNDERSTOOD SPEAKER TO SAY AMB. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOON TWICE URGED USSR TO GO TO CAIRO).

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-- SPEAKER GAVE TOTALLY NEGATIVE PORTRAYAL OF LATEST BEGIN PLAN, EMPHASIZING ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON MAINTAINING SETTLEMENTS ON ARAB LAND AND REFUSING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS. EVEN SADAT COULD NOT TAKE "SHAMEFUL RESPONSIBILITY" FOR ACCEPTING SUCH A PLAN. BUT EFFECT OF HIS SEPARATIST ACTION WAS TO SPLIT ARAB UNITY AND INCREASE DANGER OF WAR FOR NOTHING.

-- IN DISCUSSING STATES OPPOSING SADAT, SPEAKER FOCUSED ON SYRIA, NOTING THAT ITS POSITION IS VERY DIFFICULT. MILITARILY, IT CANNOT RECAPTURE GOLAN HEIGHTS. "DESPITE OUR STRONG EFFORTS," IT REMAINS IN CONFLICT WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IRAQ. INTERNAL POSITION OF BOURGEOISIE HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED (EVEN PRESIDENT ASAD'S BROTHER BELONGS TO THIS GROUP) AND IT DEPENDS ON SAUDI ARABIA TO FUND ITS FORCES IN LEBANON. POLICY OF BAATH PARTY IS CORRECT ONE, BUT SPEAKER ASKED WHETHER SYRIA WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENT POSITION.

-- IN DISCUSSING MIDDLE EAST STATES, SPEAKER SPOKE ALMOST WARMLY OF JORDAN AND SAUDIS. HUSSEIN CLEARLY SUPPORTS THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE, THOUGH HE HAS NOT SAID WHO SHOULD REPRESENT THE PALESTINIANS; HE HAS ALSO REJECTED REQUEST BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF SADAT. SAUDIS FAVOR A MORE OPENLY ANTI-ISRAELI, NATIONALIST POSITION. PRINCE FAHD'S STATEMENT THAT NO ONE CAN IGNORE THE ROLE OF THE USSR IN THE M.E. DISPLEASED BOTH US AND ISRAEL. U.S. AND WEST EUROPEANS ARE ENCOURAGING SAUDIS TO INVEST MONEY IN THEIR COUNTRIES RATHER THAN IN SWISS BANKS, IN EFFORT TO TURN TO ADVANTAGE ENHANCED FINANCIAL POWER OF FEUDAL ARAB STATES.

-- EGYPTIAN BOURGEOISIE HAS TAKEN RESERVED POSITION TOWARD SADAT'S INITIATIVE FEARING IT WILL FAIL, OR PERHAPS SADAT WILL BE KILLED ("ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IN M.E."), ENDANGERING THEIR INTERESTS.

OUTLOOK IS FOR: CONTINUED SEPARATIST TALKS. THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF SOME FURTHER SEPARATIST AGREEMENTS BUT THIS CAN LEAD TO AGGRAVATION (OBOSTRENIYE) IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS. DEVELOPMENT OF WASHINGTON-CAIRO-TEL AVIV AXIS WILL THREATEN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

3. FOLLOWING WERE AMONG THE MORE INTERESTING QUESTIONS AN

ANSWERS:

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(ON MATTER OF EGYPTIAN DEBTS TO USSR). USSR STOPPED SUPPLYING MILITARY MATERIEL AFTER ITS TECHNICIANS WERE EXPELLED AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY DENOUNCED. IT HAS TOLD D EGYPT IT CAN BUY SPARE PARTS AT FULL PRICE WITHOUT CREDIT (MURMUR OF APPROVAL). SADAT HAS CONTINUED TO PAY BACK ECONOMIC BUT NOT MILITARY DEBTS. (SPEAKER CITED SADAT'S \$9 BILLION FIGURE FOR ALL SOVIET AID TO EGYPT, NOTING THAT NO FIGURE HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN SOVIET PRESS). SPEAKER WAS HEARD TO SAY EGYPTIANS HAVE PAID 110-120 MILLION RUBLES BACK OVER PAST TWO YEARS.

(ON WHY PALESTINIANS DO NOT EMIGRATE TO USSR). WE DO NOT NEED WORKERS. ADMITTEDLY, USSR ACCEPTED MANY IRAQI KURDS, INCLUDING BARZANI WHO WENT TO HIGHER PARTY SCHOOL BEFORE THE WAR, BUT PALESTINIANS HAVE NOT ASSIMILATED, THEY WISH THEIR OWN STATE LIKE ISRAEL, AND "MUST" GET IT.

(COMPARING BRZEZINSKI AND KISSINGER). BRZEZINSKI IS A WELL-KNOWN ANTI-SOVIET; HE IS FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR AND MAIN IDEALOGUE OF PRESIDENT CARTER. KISSINGER WAS "VERY RESPECTABLE, WISE DIPLOMAT," A GERMAN; SPEAKER ADDED AS AFTERTHOUGHT, HE WAS OF COURSE SLY (KHITRY). BUCHANAN

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